

Transitions

Develop a Transition Plan to help children know what to expect

For all of us, transitions work better when we know what to expect. By planning transitions, we can help children adjust to new settings and approach new experiences in a positive way. A Transition Plan can support continuity in the care and services children and their families receive by making sure that critical information goes with them.

Transitions happen when

- ★ children enter a program for the very first time
- ★ children move up to an older age group
- ★ children go from preschool to Kindergarten
- ★ children move to a different community
- ★ children attend more than one program



Develop a Transition Plan

Welcome new children and families

- Encourage them to visit before the big day
- Use “step-up” days for children moving into an older age group
- Require staff to review the child’s intake information
 - ★ What reassures the child?
 - ★ What is the child’s favorite toy?
 - ★ What special accommodations does the child need?
- Collect the child’s safety information (such as emergency contacts or allergies)
- Encourage parents to visit or call often to see how their child is doing
- Talk with parents often about their child’s progress
- Schedule activities that make the child feel part of the group
 - ★ Decorate a cubby labeled with the child’s name
 - ★ Greet the child and parents
 - ★ Introduce the child and parent to the group



Say goodbye

- Allow enough lead time to prepare children for the change;
- Include activities that help children understand the upcoming event
 - ★ Read books about moving or starting school
 - ★ Cross off days on a calendar
- Make sure, *with parental consent*, that important information about the child accompanies her to the new setting.
- Provide parents with information about resources in their new setting or community

For more information

- About **EEC**, call your licenser or (617) 988-6600 or visit www.mass.gov/eec
- About **transitioning to Kindergarten in Boston**, www.countdowntokindergarten.org

Send this page home to your children’s parents!

